

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A copper alloy consisting essentially of 58 to ~~66~~ 62.8 wt% of copper, ~~0-1~~ 0.3 to 0.5 wt% of tin, 0.01 to 0.5 wt% of silicon, at least one of 0.3 to 3.5 wt% of lead and 0.3 to 3.0 wt% of bismuth, at least one of 0.02 to 0.15 wt% of phosphorus, 0.02 to 3.0 wt% of nickel and 0.02 to 0.6 wt% of iron, the total amount of phosphorus, nickel and iron being in the range of from 0.02 to 3.0 wt%, and the balance being zinc and unavoidable impurities, wherein a proportion of an alpha phase is 90 vol% or more.

2-4 (canceled).

5. (previously amended) A copper alloy as set forth in claim 1, wherein an apparent content B' of zinc in said copper alloy is in the range of from 34 to 39 wt%, said apparent content B' of zinc being expressed by the following expression:

$$B' = [(B + t_1q_1 + t_2q_2 + t_3q_3 + t_4q_4) / (A + B + t_1q_1 + t_2q_2 + t_3q_3 + t_4q_4)] \times 100$$

wherein A denotes the content (wt%) of copper and B denotes the content (wt%) of zinc, t_1 , t_2 , t_3 and t_4 denoting zinc equivalents of tin, silicon, nickel and iron, respectively ($t_1 = 2.0$, $t_2 = 10.0$, $t_3 = -1.3$, $t_4 = 0.9$), and q_1 , q_2 , q_3 and q_4 denoting the contents (wt%) of tin, silicon, nickel and iron, respectively.

6-10 (canceled).

11. (new) A copper alloy as set forth in claim 1, wherein the content of copper is in the range of from 60 to 62 wt%.